

Ieva Ilves, who is continuing her career as the Head of National Cyber Security Policy of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, gave a class within the 'Back to School!' week at Põltsamaa Ühisgümnaasium (Põltsamaa Coeducational Gymnasium), where her audience included students of cyber defence and information technology.

She spoke to the students about both her professional experience in the sphere of foreign and security policy, the meaning and importance of cyber security today and how each and every one of us can safeguard our own cyber security.

"I do hope that education will bring this issue, in general, closer to politicians, who have to divide their attention between so many issues that they quite often fail to focus on cyber security," said Ieva Ilves.

The class with cyber defence as a major field of study began at Põltsamaa Union Gymnasium last autumn, while the class that offers information technology as a major field of study is well into its second academic year. Students who have taken all cyber defence courses – apart from all the regular subjects – will recognise the most common forms of cyber attack and can act in the case of such attacks, they know what privacy is and how to protect their devices, and they also have the ability to exercise regular encryption tools and know about robotics and its areas of use.

"It is a school characterised by a most wonderful attitude, great students who understand the importance of cyber defence and IT and who are motivated to undertake in-depth studies. The school is worth its motto, 'Provider of Good Qualifications'," Ieva Ilves said.

She also met at Põltsamaa Union Gymnasium with an important co-operation partner of the school, Andrus Padar, who is the head of the Cyber Defence Unit of the Defence League of the Republic of Estonia.